

Fiscal Year
2016
Annual
Report



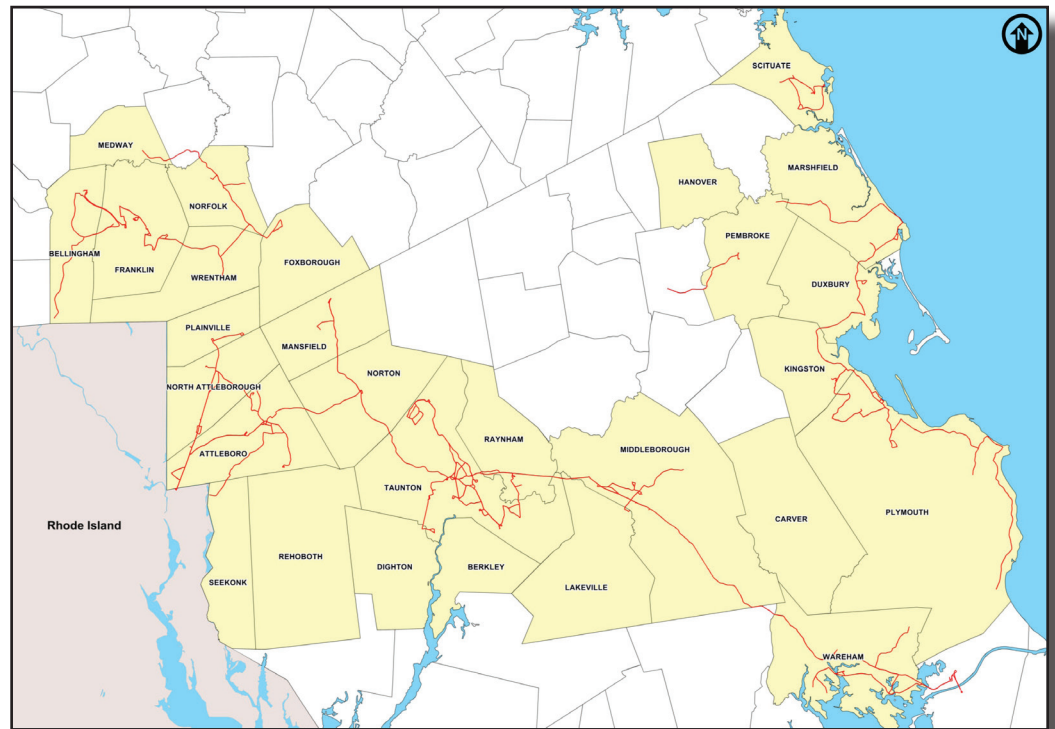
Greater Attleboro Taunton
Regional Transit Authority

10 Oak Street, Taunton, MA 02780
508-823-8828
www.gatra.org

Created in 1974 by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 161B, the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority provides comprehensive quality public transportation services to meet the mobility needs of people throughout 28 member communities in southeastern Massachusetts. GATRA transit services include fixed-route bus service, paratransit (Dial-A-Ride) service for people with disabilities and senior citizens, Medicaid and Human Service transportation for MassHealth recipients as well as commuter rail connection services. Funding for GATRA comes from local, state and federal sources.

Attleboro
Bellingham
Berkley
Carver
Dighton
Duxbury
Foxborough
Franklin
Hanover
Kingston
Lakeville
Mansfield
Marshfield
Medway
Middleborough
Norfolk
North Attleboro
Norton
Pembroke
Plainville
Plymouth
Raynham
Rehoboth
Scituate
Seekonk
Taunton
Wareham
Wrentham

The GATRA Service Area and Participating Communities



GATRA service area and existing fixed routes, FY 2016.

Message from the Administrator

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report for the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2016. The purpose of the report is to provide a summary of GATRA's financial statements and planning objectives to our Board Members, the general public, and other interested parties.

With gas prices continuing to remain low, public transit agencies are starting to see some slowdown in ridership growth, especially on their fixed route systems. GATRA is actively monitoring this downward trend locally and will continue to do so throughout FY 2017.

There were opportunities for the operation of new services in FY 2016. GATRA successfully launched the SLOOP service in the Scituate area and began planning for the expansion of service in the Hanover/Pembroke area. Conversely, a number of the recommended service changes and expansions outlined in the GATRA Regional Transit Plan have yet to be put into practice, mainly because the state legislature has not approved additional operating funds in its state budget allocation to the regional transit authority program.

Moving forward, GATRA is focused on accelerating core service improvements that will provide our communities with the affordable, quality transportation that they deserve and have come to expect. Most important, we are committed to continue to fight for the additional funds that will allow GATRA to address the many transportation challenges that our member communities are struggling to meet.

Francis J. Gay

**Administrator,
Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority**





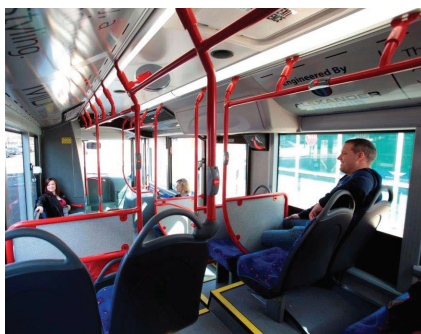
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New Service Accomplishments:

- **Scituate SLOOP service launched - July 2015**
Launched at the height of the busy tourist season on the South Shore, the Scituate SLOOP exceeded ridership expectations in its pilot year of operation.
- **New Service planned in Hanover/Pembroke**
Earlier in FY 2016, GATRA proposed a new fixed route bus service in Hanover and Pembroke that will connect to the existing SAIL service in Marshfield and run from Pembroke Center to North River Plaza and then proceed on to Route 139 and Route 53 to the Hanover Mall. The proposal is still in review by town officials.

Capital Accomplishments:

- **Taunton Terminal Renovations**
The Authority made a commitment to improve life safety and air quality systems at the Taunton terminal in FY 2016.
- **Purchase of New Buses**
Seven (7) new buses were delivered and placed into service during the fiscal year. These new buses are 30' and 35' in length and will be used in the Attleboro/Taunton and Plymouth fixed-route systems.
- **Van Replacement**
During the fiscal year, GATRA purchased 13 passenger vans and 10 minibuses. These new vans replaced aging Dial-A-Ride vehicles in use in the following communities:



GATRA purchased six 30' and one 35' new Flyer Midi Buses in FY 2016.

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| • Attleboro/Taunton (12) | • Pembroke (1) |
| • Bellingham (2) | • Plainville (1) |
| • Mansfield (2) | • Scituate (1) |
| • Carver (1) | • Wareham (1) |
| • United DAR (2) | |

PLANNING

Planning Accomplishments:

State Wide Public Transit Process – During the fiscal year GATRA participated in meetings of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities (MARTA) which covered issues relating to state funding of public transportation beyond the greater Boston area.

Completion of the Regional Transit Plan – September 2015

- Comprehensive Assessment of Transit Services
- Examination of Ridership Trends for Each Line and Service
- Performance Analysis of Existing Services
- Development and Evaluation of Alternative Service Scenarios
- Development of a Recommendation to Better Align Service
- Commonwealth's Environmental Policies
- Fare Rates and Collection Methods
- Region's Job Creation and Employment Need
- Accommodations for Transit Needs of the Region's Work force

The Regional Transit Plan was completed and endorsed by the GATRA Advisory Board in the late summer of 2015. GATRA held a series of legislative and local breakfast meetings to review recommendations and further explain how the various sections of the plan would impact each region. These meetings were well attended and people overwhelmingly favored and supported the proposals which were identified in the Regional Transit Plan. After the meetings, the Regional Transit Authorities worked on getting this message to the legislature in this past legislative session but were unsuccessful in receiving any additional funding to address some of these unmet needs. Due to this, the changes which were discussed in the plan have yet to be put into practice. We will continue to advocate for more funding and to advance the planning proposals so we can eventually begin the operation of additional bus service throughout our region.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Throughout the year, GATRA participates in numerous community outreach events at area high schools and colleges, councils on aging, senior housing complexes, and YMCAs. Our goal is to build awareness and promote GATRA's fixed route and Dial-a-Ride services to the communities we serve. Here is a sampling of the outreach meetings and events that GATRA attended in FY '16:

- Taunton Area School to Career (TASC), Taunton High School, July 2015
- Attleboro High School Transitional Program Information Fair, July 2015
- Wheaton College New Students' Orientation Weekend, August 2015
- Presentation to seniors, Garden Lane Apartments, Wrentham, Sept. 2015
- Community Counseling of Bristol County Resource Fair, Sept. 2015
- Franklin Senior Expo, Franklin Senior Center, September 2015
- Taunton Council on Aging Resources & Info Fair, Taunton COA, September 2015
- MassDOT Moving Together 2015 Transit Session, October 2015
- Attleboro High School Career Fair, October 2015
- Leadership Summit and Info Sharing Conference on Veterans Services, Oct. 2015
- Attleboro Enterprises, North Attleboro, November 2015
- Attleboro School to Career Partnership (Transition Night), November 2015
- SERCCOT Ways to Work and School Forum, November 2015
- Older Driver Safety Summit, January 2016
- Community Counseling of Bristol County Health Fair, February 2016
- Neponset Valley Regional Coordinating Council Medical Forum, February 2016
- Healthy Plymouth Career Fair, March 2016
- Senior Spectacular, North Attleboro High School, April 2016
- Massachusetts Community Transportation Conference, May 2016
- GATRA Consumer Advisory Committee (GCAC) Meetings - monthly
- Taunton Emergency Task Force Meetings - monthly
- SERCCOT Meetings - monthly

PARTNERSHIPS



Each year, GATRA receives funding from the United Way of Greater Attleboro/Taunton (UWGAT) to provide vital programs such as MedWheels, a shared long-distance medical van service for seniors, persons with disabilities and low income individuals, or the free bus pass program for Taunton area agencies and their clients.



GATRA in partnership with MassDOT and NuRide, offer riders' rewards for choosing healthier and "greener" transportation options through the NuRide program. NuRide was developed to encourage people to make greener trips and earn rewards for doing so. From riding the GATRA bus, to walking, carpooling, van pooling, and biking, this program rewards points that can be accumulated and then redeemed for retail discounts, restaurant coupons, and tickets to shows and attractions.



For the sixth year, GATRA partnered with the Taunton Area School to Career, Inc., to provide travel training instruction to high school students in the work-study program. Travel training instruction teaches students how to travel safely and independently using public transportation.



GATRA participates in the South East Regional Coordinating Council on Transportation (SERCCOT), which provides an ongoing forum for open discussion where stakeholders can exchange information about transportation access issues, especially as they relate to low-income individuals, seniors, and people with disabilities. SERCCOT works toward increasing transportation opportunities for both consumers and the communities in the southeastern section of the GATRA region.



RIDERSHIP STATISTICS

2016

	Fixed Route	Demand Response	Human Services Brokerage	Total Ridership
Annual Ridership	832,044	272,608	1,636,165	2,740,817

2015

	Fixed Route	Demand Response	Human Services Brokerage	Total Ridership
Annual Ridership	849,716	262,417	1,530,383	2,642,516

2014

	Fixed Route	Demand Response	Human Services Brokerage	Total Ridership
Annual Ridership	855,505	257,376	1,361,260	2,474,141

Fixed Route by Service Area

Unlinked Passenger Trips

Attleboro/Taunton	517,001
Plymouth Area Link (PAL)	127,816
Marshfield/Duxbury/Kingston (SAIL)	35,772
Onset Wareham Link (OWL)	80,962
Franklin Area Bus (FAB)	8,404
Tri-Town Connector	3,904
Norton/Mansfield Route 140	26,202
Bellingham Commuter Shuttle	4,152
Medway Commuter Shuttle	9,883
Middleborough Downtown Shuttle	10,781
Pembroke Commuter Shuttle	1,769
Scituate SLOOP Shuttle	5,398
Total Fixed Route	832,044

Demand Response by Town

Unlinked Passenger Trips

United Dial-A-Ride (Foxboro, Franklin, Norfolk, Wrentham)	19,369
Attleboro/Taunton	112,933
Bellingham	5,942
Carver	6,479
Duxbury	9,776
Hanover	4,477
Kingston	8,141
Lakeville	2,117
Mansfield	7,791
Mansfield Connection Service	8,574
Marshfield	5,832
Medway	2,187
Middleborough	9,486
Pembroke	7,685
Plainville	3,455
Plymouth	29,715
Scituate	5,852
Wareham	20,475
Wrentham	2,318
Total Demand Response	272,608

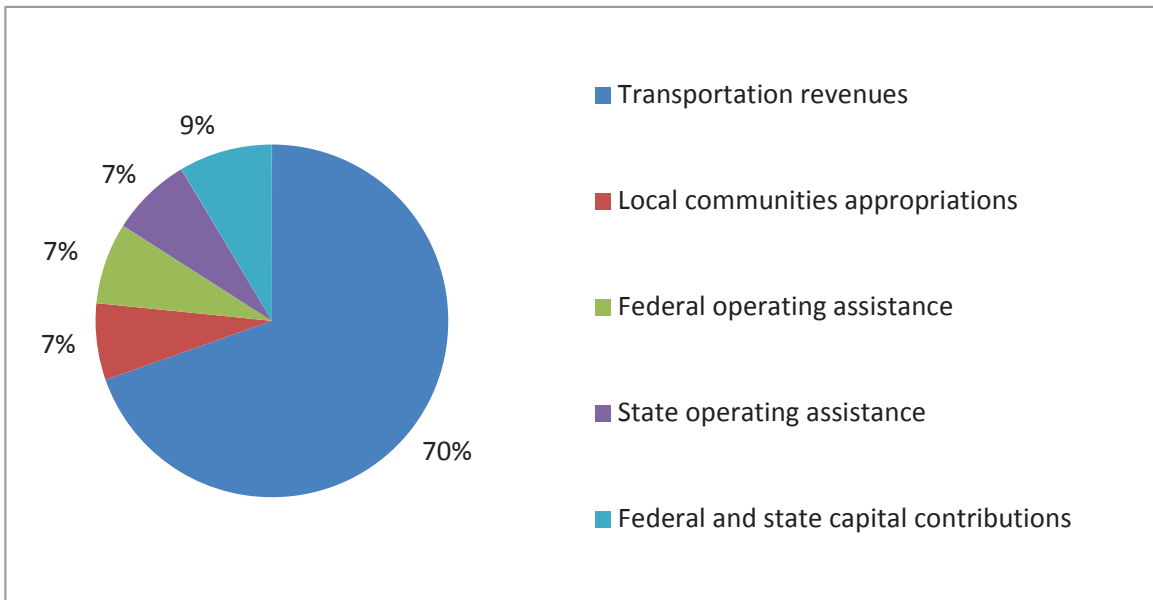




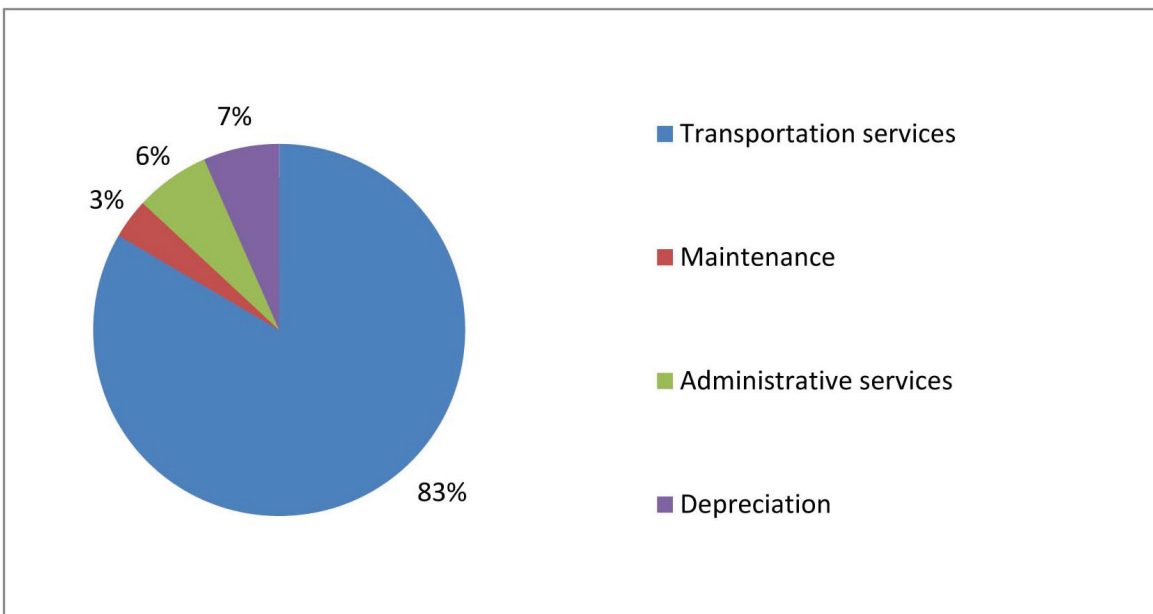
FINANCE

The revenues and expenses by source for GATRA operations for the period ending June 30, 2016 are delineated in the following graphs:

Revenues by Source: FY2016



Expenses by Source: FY2016



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS & RECOMMENDATIONS



Summary

GATRA, and its other RTA partners, which comprise the Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities (MARTA), continue to work closely with the legislature to ensure that public transportation services outside of the Boston area receive the recognition and necessary funding to be able to compete with and become a viable alternative for people to travel in their respective communities. As the MBTA financial debates continue, MARTA is poised to act on proposals which could affect future funding to the RTAs.

Comprehensive Planning

In September 2015, GATRA released the final draft of its Regional Transit Plan. The plan, prepared by URS Corporation, is not only a comprehensive assessment of GATRA's fixed route transit services, but also outlines detailed recommendations for new and existing services.

The Plan's recommendations have been categorized by route and phase. In Phase 1, the focus is to eliminate underperforming routes and improve efficiencies with existing routes through service adjustments. Phase 2 assumes an annual increase of \$1 million in operating funds, but also benefits from the unallocated savings achieved in Phase 1. Phase 3 assumes an unconstrained operating budget in which the cost of providing the full need of service will be offset through increased revenues from local, state, and federal funding partners.

Phase 1 recommendations mostly affect routes in the Taunton/Attleboro services areas.

Phase 2 consists of two entirely new routes: Route 2 serving MA-138 in Taunton and the Raynham Council on Aging; and a new Plainridge route originating at the Triboro Plaza in Attleboro and serving the new Plainridge Park Casino. It also includes the expansion of several existing services including Route 9 in Taunton serving Highland Street and Hannaford supermarket and a new T Shuttle in Medway serving West Medway's Route 109 to Holliston Street, Medway Middle School, Village Street to Route 115 South, and ending at the Norfolk MBTA station.

Phase 3 consists of expanded night service on most routes and the introduction of Sunday service on most routes. Also included was expanded hours in the Wareham and Plymouth areas during July and August to accommodate seasonal demands.

Additional state financial resources are needed to advance this plan. Unfortunately, the state legislature has not approved any new funds for these service initiatives as yet.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

COMMUNITY

Attleboro
Bellingham
Berkley
Carver
Dighton
Duxbury
Foxborough
Franklin
Hanover
Kingston
Lakeville
Mansfield
Marshfield
Medway
Middleboro
Norfolk
No. Attleboro
Norton
Pembroke
Plainville
Plymouth
Raynham
Rehoboth
Scituate
Seekonk
Taunton
Wareham
Wrentham

ELECTED OFFICIAL

Mayor Kevin Dumas
Mike Connor
George F. Miller
Michael J. O'Donnell, Jr.
Dean Cronin
David J. Madigan
Mark Sullivan
Matthew Kelly
Joseph R. Salvucci
Elaine A. Fiore
Scott T. Belliveau
Jess Aptowitz
Matthew J. McDonough
Glenn Trindade
Stephen J. McKinnon
Robert J. Garrity
Paul J. Belham, Sr.
Robert W. Kimball
Willard J. Boulter
Andrea Soucy
Mathew J. Muratore
Marie A. Smith
Susan M. Pimental
Shawn Harris
Nelson Almeida
Mayor Thomas C. Hoyer
Peter W. Teitelbaum
Joseph F. Botaish

DESIGNEE

Mayor Kevin Dumas
Laura DeMattia, COA Director
Gil Pontes, Selectman
Carole Julius, COA Director
Alice Souza, COA Director
Joanne Moore, COA Director
Vicki Lowe, COA Director
Robert Dellorco
Robyn Mitton, COA Director
Tammy Murray, COA Director
James Gouveia
Gale Farrugia, COA Director
Greg Guimond, Town Planner
Missy Dzikczek, COA Director
Andrea Priest, COA Director
Scott Bragdon, Human Services Director
JoAnn Cathcart, Admin. Office
Richard Leitch
Anna Seery, COA Director
Leland Ross, COA Board Member
Sean Page
Elizabeth Moura, COA Director
Bradley Marshall, Outreach Worker, SHINE
Linda Hayes, COA Director
Bernie Huck, COA Director
Mayor Thomas C. Hoyer
Alan Slavin, Selectmen
Janet Angelico, COA Director

Disabled Rider Community Representative
Rider Community Representative

Deborah Sheward
Marion E. Cafferky